

***Popondichthys*, a Replacement Name  
for the Melanotaeniid Fish  
Genus *Popondetta***

Gerald R. Allen

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The genus *Popondetta* was described by Allen (1980) to accommodate the melanotaeniid *Pseudomugil furcatus* Nichols (1955). A second species, *Popondetta connieae* was subsequently described by Allen (1981). These fishes have allopatric freshwater distributions restricted to a small section of eastern New Guinea located approximately between the villages of Popondetta (8°45'S, 148°15'E) and Safia (9°35'S, 148°48'E). Allen (1980) considered *Popondetta* to be a sister genus of *Pseudomugil* differing from it on the basis of a higher number of soft anal rays (16–20 vs. 8–12), the absence of anterior projection near the ventral midline of the pelvic girdle, and the absence of distinct scale radii.

Walter Ivantsoff of Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia) recently provided the author with a copy of a publication by Woodward (1978) describing four new genera of beetles (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) including *Popondetta*, which was erected for a new species of lygaeid, *P. monthethi*. The use of *Popondetta* for the new fish genus by Allen (1980) is therefore invalid. Thus a new name *Popondichthys* is proposed here.

***Popondichthys* substitute name**

*Popondetta* Allen, 1980: 468 (preoccupied by *Popondetta* Woodward, a hemipterid genus of Insecta).

Type species: *Pseudomugil furcatus* Nichols, 1955: 1

**Diagnosis.** Relatively elongate, laterally compressed body; greatest body depth 3.4 to 4.4 in standard length; premaxillaries with a distinct bend between the anterior horizontal portion and lateral part; jaw teeth conical to caniniform, several rows extending outside of mouth; vomer and palatines toothless; inter-dorsal pterygiophores absent; first dorsal fin consisting of 5 to 8 slender flexible spines; second dorsal fin composed of a slender flexible spine and 7 to 12 segmented rays; anal fin with a slender flexible spine and 16 to 20 segmented rays; anal fin originates on anterior

half of body; all soft segmented fin rays usually branched except first ray of second dorsal fin and second ray of anal fin; branched caudal rays 9 to 12; parhypural fused to lower hypural plate; pelvic girdle without anterior projections at ventral midline; lateral process of pelvic girdle anchored to fourth pleural rib; dorsal head of cleithrum without posteriorly directed projection; scales cycloid with radii absent or poorly developed; horizontal scale rows on body at level of anal fin 6; vertical rows from upper corner of gill opening to caudal fin base 30 to 33; gill rakers on first gill arch 0 to 3+8 to 10; vertebrae 31 or 32; sexual dimorphism characterized by more elongate rays in first dorsal fin and posteriormost part of second dorsal fin of males.

**Remarks.** The generic relationships within Melanotaeniidae are currently under investigation by B. Said and W. Ivantsoff of Macquarie University in conjunction with the present author. According to our preliminary results, *Popondichthys* may eventually be relegated to subgeneric ranking within *Pseudomugil*.

The name *Popondichthys* is formed from the stem of *Popondetta* and the Greek “ichthys” which is masculine.

**Literature cited**

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(Department of Ichthyology, Western Australian Museum, Francis Street, Perth, Western Australia, 6000)

Melanotaeniidae 科魚類 *Popondetta* 属の置換名 *Popondichthys*

Gerald R. Allen

Allen (1980) が *Pseudomugil furcatus* を模式種として作った *Popondetta* 属は, Woodward (1978) が作った半翅類の *Popondetta* 属に先取されていたので, 置換名として *Popondichthys* を提唱する.